Fake passport racket in the country

†2426. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work of making fake passports in the country is going on at a very fast pace;

(b) if so, whether some persons have been found involved in this work recently;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken any action against them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Service tax on embassies

2427. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the MInister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NDMC propose to impose service tax on embassies in Delhi; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes. The NDMC has proposed a Service Charge on Diplomatic Missions in Delhi.

(b) The proposal is under consideration.

Welfare Schemes for salt workers

2428. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers in the salt sector, State-wise, particularly in Gujarat;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the welfare schemes formulated by Government for them and the number of workers benefited from these schemes, so far, State-wise;

(c) the funds allocated under these schemes during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the schemes operating in Saurashtra-Kutch region of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The details as reported by the office of Salt Commissioner are given in Statement-I. (*See* below)

(b) Welfare schemes (as given in Statement-II) are formulated and implemented by the Office of the Salt Commissioner, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. These schemes are financed out of the cess levied on production of salt and collected by the Salt Commissioner. (*See* below)

The number of workers as reported by the office of Salt Commissioner benefited from these schemes during last three years are given in Statement-III. (See below)

(c) The details of funds allocated by Office of the Salt Commissioner, under Ministry of Commerce and Industry are given in Statement-IV. (*See* below)

(d) The schemes formulated by the Salt Commissioner are equally applicable in the State of Gujarat. Apart from these the State Government of Gujarat is also running other welfare schemes as given in Statement-V.

Statement-I

Average number of labourers employed per day in salt industry during the Year 1999, 2000 & 2001

Serial Number	Name of State	Number of Labourers		
		1999	2000	2001
1.	Rajasthan	9,684	14,997	16,203
2.	Gujarat	56,470	54,933	47,886
3.	Maharashtra	2,798	4290	7,276
4.	Karnataka	253	231	196

Serial Number	Name of State	Number of Labourers		
		1999	2000	2001
5.	Tamil Nadu	13,716	15,009	13,990
6.	Andhra Pradesh	8,714	9,781	10,460
7.	Goa	116	70	70
8.	Orissa	727	443	528
9.	West Bengal	240	230	235
10.	Himachal Pradesh	55	50	50
11.	Daman & Diu	*	*	*
	TOTAL :	92,773	1,00,034	96,894

*included in Gujarat State.

Statement-II

List of Schemes formulated by Office of the Salt Commissioner, under Ministry of Commerce & Industry, benefiting the labourers :

(a) Water supply schemes including provision of water coolers, storage tanks, water tankers mounted on trailers etc.

(b) Construction of labour rest sheds, creches, toilets, etc.

(c) Provisions of augmentation of medical facilities, including conducting General Health-cum-Eye camps.

(d) Provision of Community centres and recreation facilities including organising sports meets, installation of TV sets, 16 m.m. Sound Projectors, etc.

(e) Provision of augmentation of educational facilities for the children of workers employed in the salt industry including grant of rewards to meritorious children of salt workers for purchase of books etc.

(f) Labour Housing, subject to the provisions of the scheme formulated in this regard.

(g) Provision of audio-visual aids in the Salt Department for improving skills in production of salt/iodised salt/ quality control etc.

Statement-III

Statement Showing the number of Workers Benefited from the Labour Welfare Schemes of Salt Commissioner, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, during Last three years (1999-2002)

	Name of State	Number of Labourers benefited
	Rajasthan	2810
	Gujarat	14065
	Tamil Nadu	2458
	Orissa	420

Statement-IV

State-wise details of funds allocated by office of the Salt Commissioner, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, for Labour Welfare Works during the last three years

(*Figures in rupees*)

Sl. No.	Name of State	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	Rajasthan	2,605	6,21,830	8,12,129
2.	Gujarat	11,82,102	16,69,066	13,38,837
3.	Maharashtra	—	—	—
4.	Karnataka	—	—	—
5.	Tamil Nadu	1,09,615	97,886	3,00,000
6.	Andhra Pradesh	11,046	—	—
7.	West Bengal	1,03,131	—	—
8.	Orissa	1,05,514	10,377	23,634
	TOTAL :	**15,14,013**	**23,99,159**	**24,74,600**

Statement-V

List of Welfare Schemes run by the State Government for Salt Workers in the State of Gujarat

(a) Group Insurance Schemes.
(b) Scheme for Salt Workers' Welfare Centres.
(c) Seasonal Balwadi-cum-Ghodiya Ghar Scheme.
(d) Shelter Shade (Kaccha-Quarter) Scheme.
(e) Pacca-Quarter Scheme.
(f) Scheme for total development of salt workers.
(g) First aid boxes for salt workers.

Direct / Indirect Employment Generation through NGO

2429. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of unemploment problem in the country indicating the State-wise, number of unemployed, both educated and uneducated, gender-wise; and

(b) the number of direct and indirect employment generated through NGOs by implementation of Government Schemes as well as funding from other sources including foreign funding, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) State wise details of the number of educated and uneducated job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of employment exchanges in the country as on December 1999 (latest available) is given in the statement enclosed. (*See* below)

(b) As per the Sample Surveys carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 1999-2000, estimated Work Force in the country was of the order of 397 million as compared to 374.5 million in 1993-94. Most of the employment generation took place in the unorganised private sector including employment generation through NGO efforts.